

The International School of Macao Parents' Association (TISPA)
General Meeting
Tuesday, 8th December 2015, 1:30pm
TIS – Secondary Library
Agenda

Present

Howard Stribbell	Christie Kelso	Sarah Luvisutto
David Spreadbury	Waynie Hsie	Andrea Dryburgh
Mary-Anne Jasinski	Kat Scott	

Apologies: Diane O’Keeffe, Julie Kirkman, Bec Walker, Phuong Ng, Judith Cunningham, Louise Kewley, Kath Rose

Minutes of last meeting (5th November)

Distributed on-line. No Corrections noted. Accepted as correct.

Welcome

Head of Schools’ Report (Howard Stribbell) – See attached

- Alberta Accreditation Inspection and DSEJ Inspection: DSEJ’s unofficial feedback was mixed. The risk TIS runs with DSEJ is that they find that the curriculum is not rigorous enough and TIS should be teaching more content at a faster pace. Mr Stribbell noted that the reality is that when comparing results (ie: PISA test - Program for International Student Assessment, University acceptance, etc.) TIS students constantly rank above average and exceed the Macau average by far, maintaining on par results with Hong Kong schools. For more detail on the Alberta report, see attached AB ED inspection summary from last year.
- Changes in staffing: Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Karen Holmes, will be leaving her position at the end of the year. Nick Chignall will be assuming the Coordinator position. Elementary Vice Principal: Amanda Kiat will expand her role from Gr 4-6 Division Coordinator to the Elementary School Vice Principal (G1-4). Elementary and Secondary Division Coordinators to become Vice Principals. 2 Full-time equivalency positions have been allocated. For the next year, the admin team has decided to allocate 1 FTE Elementary Vice Principal, and split the secondary position into 2 0.5 FTE VP positions. One for middle school and one for high school. Chris Fortner has accepted a new position as an Inclusive Education Teacher and Maikala Harris has stepped in to fill his Grade 2 position. Inclusive Education involves work with special needs children, such as children with a form of autism, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, and speech therapy. The question in regards to only offering Pre-K on a half-day basis came up and Mr Stribbell noted that the transition from half-days in PK to full-days in JK is usually not an issue so parents can feel at ease, should they choose to send their child to the half-day program. The school wants to offer families that choice.

Principal’s Reports

Elementary (Mary-Anne Jasinski)

- Thank you to everyone involved in the Winter Wonderland. It was a great event with so many volunteers and families in attendance. The Christmas concerts at the weekend were also very

successful with a completely full house at the MUST Auditorium. Next year TIS will look into possibly splitting up the grades further so there is enough room for the audience. Ms Kelso mentioned that she was speaking to an executive at Galaxy whom expressed interest in working with TIS on this occasion by lending TIS the use of their Broadway Theatre, as part of a community outreach effort. Mr Stribbell asked for the contact information for follow up purposes.

- The Kindergarten Christmas concert is this Saturday at 11:30 at MUST Auditorium.
- Dress down day is coming up on the last day of the term, Friday the 18th and the theme is Pyjamas (all divisions).
- Ms Hsie noted that on the SK blog there is a mention of another dress down day for PK-G6 on Wednesday the 16th. Children can wear holiday colours on this day and will go to the MUST Auditorium for a movie. Mr Stribbell verified and confirmed this information during the meeting.
- Ms Scott thanked Ms Jasinski for all her help during Christmas Wonderland.
- PK-G3 Assembly with Christmas Carols is on Wednesday, December 9 at 8:45 am
- G4-6 will have a regular assembly on Thursday, December 10 at 8:45 am

Secondary (David Spreadbury)

- The four Student Teachers depart on Saturday. They were very strong in the classrooms. For the next intake, there will only be three student teachers.
- The Secondary Christmas Concert is on Saturday, December 12 at 5pm. There will be G7&9 band and string quartet performances, among others.
- Experience Week: Finalising trips. There have been some changes due to worldwide situations so the Russia trip has been changed to Korea, at the high school level.
Grade 7: Vietnam, G8: Chiang Mai, G9: Japan
There is still a lot of unrest about the trips and concerns over safety. As a school, TIS takes exceptional precautions, much more so than most families would take on any holiday. TIS is also working with International SOS, a leading medical and travel security assistance company. This service provides up to date information, risk assessment of activities and 24/7 medical coverage. Attendance numbers are slightly lower than last year but in high school participation is almost 90%. Middle school numbers are a little lower, close to 80%.
- The kiosk is up and running in its first week! The student council has been selling hot chocolate, ham and cheese sandwiches, and instant noodles as part of their ongoing fundraising initiative. They are inside the MPR, during lunch time.

Treasurer's Report (Andrea Dryburgh)

Winter Wonderland was a huge success. Ms Scott did a great job securing fantastic prizes. The raffle alone made \$13,790. The entire event made \$30,600! The treasurer reported banking \$48,054 for TISPA YTD.

Ms Dryburgh mentioned that some more information on TISPA should be displayed publicly so that people understand more clearly what it is TISPA does and how the funds raised are used.

Events Report

Events since last meeting:

- **Community Day (November 7th) - Family Fun Day**
Great event. Very well attended and lots of fun was had by families and staff members.

- **Winter Wonderland**
Very successful event, despite the cool and wet weather.
Ms Dryburgh noted that TISPA's next event would likely bring in good revenue as the stock is still high and there will be need for less spending.
- The Giving Tree (through December 17th)
TISPA was given a donation of \$2000 toward presents that will need to be purchased at the last minute. Julie Kirkman will organise the delivery of the presents to the orphanages on the December 17th with the help of Munir.

Upcoming events:

- **TIS Disco**
To be discussed in the new year.
- **Other upcoming Events**

General Business

- A couple of parking concerns were raised. Private drivers are blocking in parked cars (on the road by Season's Cafe) and leaving the car unattended. Ms Hsie noted a similar concern with Kiss n' ride, where cars are being left in the line, unattended. Mr Stribbell will follow up.
- Ms Scott mentioned that, on behalf of TISPA, she would like to thank Jonas for his hard work and tremendous effort throughout the year. He does a fantastic job and is always very friendly and pleasant.
- Jessica Kaushik came to the meeting to address a concern in regards to TISPA providing healthier food options at the school events, such as Community Days and Winter Wonderland. Jessica feels strongly that the children at TIS are vulnerable and that it is our responsibility, as caregivers, to provide them with the guidelines and best choices when it comes to diet and health. Suggestions included letting *Future Bright* prepare the meals for these events, and if necessary increase the cost of the meal. Another option that was suggested was contacting *Blissful Carrot* to see if they would work with TISPA on catering part of the event at cost or at a reduced price to offer some vegetarian or other healthier alternatives to the TISPA BBQ. Jessica offered her help in getting this effort initiated.
Mr Stribbell added that TIS has previously used *Blissful Carrot* for in-house staff functions and that they have been happy with their services and food options. The volunteers at TISPA feel strongly that being present at these events and being involved in preparing the food and activities for these special occasions is crucial and underlines the purpose of volunteering. It is consistent with the message to the children, that parent volunteers are present and at work for the school their children attend. Outsourcing all the food services would simply take away from that message and drive up costs, which would strongly affect the fundraising effort - the main purpose of several of these events.
It was reiterated that the main issue at hand is the limited number of volunteers who actually

show up to do the work that is necessary to organise and run these events. There is a very large list of potential TISPA volunteers, however only a handful or two of the same parents, are there every time to put in the necessary work.

In discussing possible next steps, it was also suggested that some of these healthier food options could be showcased at the next TISPA event, alongside the BBQ, with Jessica and other volunteers taking the lead. Alternatively, a next step would be to form a sub-committee to lead this effort and come up with ideas, recipes, cost-analysis and volunteers.

o **Actionable items:**

- Form a sub-committee to lead this initiative - Mr Stribbell to facilitate the communication
- Brainstorm ideas to increase fundraising outside of the BBQ in order to have a larger budget for food offerings - TISPA
- Explore industry contacts and relationships to possibly help with procurement of high quality food products for BBQ or otherwise - TISPA

Ms Scott thanked Christie Kelso, former TISPA Co-President and current Vice President for all of her hard work over the past two and a half years. Christie and her family are moving back to Australia at the end of December. Christie will be greatly missed, as a friend and an amazingly hard-working TISPA committee member.

Confirm date for next meeting Tuesday, January 12th at 1:30 pm in the Secondary Library.